



CITY NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**** Media Advisory ****

Police to focus on impaired drivers as summer comes to a close

With the approach of the end of summer and the beginning of school, Wichita Police Officers will be placing an additional emphasis on traffic safety August 19 through September 5 throughout the city. This enforcement effort –You Drink and Drive, You Lose- is a part of the statewide project under the Kansas Department of Transportation STEP grant, and will place an emphasis on impaired drivers.

“We often see impaired drivers making simple mistakes like running stop lights, speeding and not wearing seatbelts. While these are simple errors, they can prove to be deadly,” said Traffic Sgt. Jerry Quick, Patrol West Bureau. “With increased patrols during this enforcement campaign, if you choose to drive impaired you can count on being arrested,” he said.

Officers from the **Patrol West Bureau** will be conducting DUI Saturation patrols every Friday and Saturday night throughout the entire Bureau. They will also be conducting speed enforcement on West Kellogg between Seneca and 119th St. every weekday morning. Additionally, the officers will be citing those who fail to wear their seatbelts.

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Officers from the **Patrol East Bureau** will be conducting DUI saturation patrols every Friday and Saturday night, as well as other selected nights during this enforcement campaign. They will also be conducting speed enforcement on East Kellogg in the construction areas and issuing citations to those who fail to wear their seatbelts.

Patrol South Officers will be conducting special DUI Saturation patrols each evening throughout the enforcement campaign. They will focus their efforts on Kellogg and at the major intersections in the Patrol South Bureau.

The **Patrol North Bureau** will conduct DUI Saturation patrols on August 20 and 26 and on September 4. They will run a seatbelt check lane on August 30 at 2400 N. Broadway, and will conduct large traffic enforcement exercises on August 29 and Sept. 2. Additionally, the Patrol North Bureau will run a DUI check lane on August 27 from 11 p.m. until 3 a.m. on August 28 at 13th and Ohio Streets.

Wichita has recorded 13 fatalities between January 1 and August 13, 2005. Of those 13 fatalities, five of them, or 38 percent, were alcohol/drug related. During the same time period in 2004 there were 16 fatalities, and seven of those, 44 percent, were alcohol/drug related.

"The Labor Day holiday is considered the last big holiday of the summer. We want everyone to have a safe holiday, so be considerate to other drivers and remember – You Drink and Drive, You Lose!" said Traffic Sgt. Jim Krok, Patrol East Bureau.

For more information on any of these projects, please contact Sgt. Chris McAuliffe, Patrol North 688-9500; Sgt. Donnie Phelps, Patrol South 337-9200; Sgt. Jerry Quick, Patrol West 337-9400, or Sgt. James Krok, Patrol East 688-9331.